Gitto v. Asbestos May 16, 2007 Salvatore Gitto Vol. 2

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<u> </u>	SUPREME COURT:
2	ALL COUNTIES WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW YORK
3	IN RE: NEW YORK CITY ASBESTOS LITIGATION
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7	DEPOSITION UNDER ORAL VOLUME II
8	EXAMINATION OF
9	SALVATORE GITTO
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14	This Document Applies To:
15	SALVATORE GITTO
16	INDEX NO: 07/105033
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22	PRIORITY-ONE COURT REPORTING SERVICES, INC.
23	899 Manor Road
24	Staten Island, New York 10314
¹ 25	(718) 983-1234
gr.	

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Q. Did you assist in that project? 1

2 To some extent, limited. 3

Q. To what extent did you assist?

I'm pretty sure we had a contractor work 4 A.

upstairs. My involvement was minimal. 5

Q. Did you do any work in connection with 6 7 that project at all?

I'm sure I did some, yes. 8

O. Do you remember what that was?

Maybe some little carpentry work. 10

O. Do you recall the name of the contractor 11

who did that work? 12

My father. 13

Q. Did anybody else assist him? 14

Maybe one of my brothers. 15

Q. Do you have a specific recollection of

17 that?

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I'm sorry? 18 A.

Q. Do you have a specific memory of one of 19 your brothers helping him? Again, I just want to 20

know what you do recall specifically. 21

I'm sure some of the family members helped. 22

O. Do you recall who as you sit here today?

24 A. No.

Do you know the names of any products

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that were used in connection with that construction 1 2 project?

3 A.

4 Q. Again, was plastering work involved in 5 that project at all, that you know of?

6 Say again.

Q. Plastering work, was that involved in that project at all?

I think some small patching, yes. 9

Q. Were you present when that was done?

11 I don't recall.

Q. Moving on to your time at the Textile 12

High School for just a second, what did you study at 13 that location? 14

I'm sorry? 15

Q. At the Textile High School, what did you 16 17 study, just generally?

18 Electrical technology.

19 Q. Can you just describe for me generally 20 what that meant?

Study of electrical theory and applications. 21

Q. Did it involve any type of hands-on work 22 23 on any type of equipment?

24 A. In a lab environment, yes.

25 Q. What type of work would that be?

Page 268 Working on small generators maybe, lighting Α. fixtures. 2

Q. Do you recall the manufacturers of any of that equipment?

5 Α. No.

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11 12

Q. Let's move on to your time at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. You were asked generally about the Lexington and the Oriskany earlier today. You said that you did not recall specific jobs that you performed on those ships. Do you believe that you were exposed to asbestos on those ships?

I believe so. 12

13 Q. Let's talk about the Lexington first. How is it that you believe that you were exposed to 14 asbestos aboard the Lexington?

I recall the type of work would have brought me into the engine rooms and the boiler rooms.

Q. What type of work would that have been that would have brought you into those rooms?

As previously discussed or whatever, involved 20 the removal and installation of new equipment or old 21 equipment, the layout of foundations and the repair 22 of anything that was disturbed in order to gain 23 24 access.

Q. When you talk about repair of anything

Page 269 that was disturbed, are you talking about the access

holes that you've been mentioning throughout the past 2 couple of days? 3

4 Right.

5 Q. Do you recall how many engine rooms there were aboard the Lexington? 6

I believe two.

Q. Do you recall how many boiler rooms there were?

10 A. I believe two.

> Q. Do you recall which of those engine rooms or boiler rooms you worked in?

13 It would have been all of them. 14

Q. How is it that you believe you were exposed to asbestos specifically in the engine room?

15 Again, as similarly stated, there was 16

equipment that was being installed and removed, 17

uncovered, piping insulation being removed, 18 reinstalled. Welding going on, burning going on. 19

20 Fire protection, coverings. That type of work.

21 O. What type of equipment do you believe was 22 removed?

23 Variety of equipment; compressors, pumps.

Q. Are you able to identify the manufacturer 24 25 of the compressors that were aboard the Lexington at Gitto v. Asbestos May 16, 2007

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that time?

- A. I can't identify compressors, I guess, but Ingersoll-Rand. That's about it. At this time, I do not recall too much more.
- Q. I understand you said more than once today that you identify compressors with Ingersoll-Rand. Do you have a specific recollection of the brand that was aboard the Lexington in the engine room?
- 10 A. No.
 - Q. How about the pumps that you believe were installed and removed on the Lexington only? Are you able to identify the manufacturer?
- 14 A. Again, I believe Vickers was the manufacturer.
 - Q. The piping insulation that was removed and replaced in the engine room, are you able to identify the brand of that insulation?
- 18 A. No.
 - Q. The welding that you just described that you believe caused you to be exposed to asbestos, what welding are you referring to?
- A. Welding of the foundation; welding of the
 hangers, brackets, supporting structure; welding of
 any patches or holes that were cut out.
 - Q. Why were holes made on that particular

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- the Lexington, do you believe that you were exposed
 in the same fashion as you've already described with
 respect to the engine rooms on this ship?
- 4 A. Yes.

5

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- Q. Again, are you able to specifically identify the manufacturer of any equipment located within those engine rooms?
- 8 A. And on the boilers I remember Babcock & 9 Wilcox.
- Q. Was there any other type of equipment in that room that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from?
- 13 A. Again, there was a lot of other equipment in 14 there, compressors, pumps, valves.
- Q. Again, are you able to testify with certainty the manufacturers of those pieces of equipment aboard the Lexington in the boiler room? A. No.
- Q. Let's move on to the Oriskany. I have the same questions for you. How is it that you believe you were exposed to asbestos aboard that ship?
- 23 A. Similarly.
- Q. Was there anything different about how you're claiming exposure on the Oriskany as opposed

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1 to the Lexington?

2 A. Basically not.3 O. Again, die

Q. Again, did you work in both the engine room and the boiler rooms in that ship?

A. Yes.

5

6

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11

MR. NOVAKIDIS: I'm just going to object to the last question as foundation.

Q. Are you able to testify with certainty as to the names of the manufacturers of any of the equipment on those spaces on the Oriskany?

MS. WAYNE: Form. Foundation.

12 A. No.

Q. You were never a licensed machinist or millwright, correct?

15 A. No.

- Q. You had no training with respect to the maintenance of compressors or pumps?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. True?
- 20 A. True.
- 21 Q. In your Interrogatories, there's

reference made to both Worthington pumps and compressors aboard various vessels. Do you recall

24 that?

25 A. I believe so, yes.

1 ship in the engine room?

- A. To get access. In order to get access for the equipment, they didn't fit through a normal size hatch, hole, so they had to cut a hole in the bulkhead or something, allow the equipment to be passed through.
- Q. Do you have a specific recollection of equipment being passed through the hole of the Lexington?
- A. I think on all the ships, similar type of operation. The equipment was quite large, and the normal access ladders, hatches were made for human transportation, for humans to pass through, not large pieces of equipment.
- Q. Do you recall if you worked with anybody in the engine room aboard the Lexington performing the work that you just described?
- 18 A. I'm sure I did.
- 19 Q. Do you recall the names of anybody in 20 particular?
- 21 A. No.
- Q. Do you recall who your supervisor was when did you that work?
- 24 A. No.

25

O. With respect to the boiler rooms aboard

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talking about? 1

- Q. On the FDR.
- I would see where the pump was supposed to be 3
- 4 located by drawing or spec, check it out that it was
- 5 there. If it wasn't there, remove it and put it in
- the proper location. 6
 - Q. Would you personally remove it?
- 8 The foundation itself, not the pump. The pump
- 9 itself was handled by machinists. The foundation was
- 10 my responsibility.
- Q. Do you believe you were exposed to 11 asbestos from the Vicker pumps on the FDR? 12
- 13
- 14 Q. How do you believe were exposed to
- 15 asbestos from these pumps?
- A. Lot of these pumps had asbestos pipe covering 16
- that needed to be removed and replaced and disturbed. 17
- 18 They were ripped. They were burnt. They gave off
- 19 fumes.
- 20 Q. Any other ways?
- 21 That's it.
- 22 Q. Where is this asbestos pipe covering
- 23 located?
- 24 A. I'm sorry? Where?
- 25 Q. The pipe covering you're referring to,

Page 358

- Q. Do you know who installed the covering,
- that blanket covering on the Vicker pump? 2
- I'm really not hearing you. I'm sorry. 3 4
 - Do you know who installed the asbestos
- 5 blanket over the Vicker pump?
- 6 Did I ever?

7

17

- O. Do you know who installed it?
- Oh, the blankets. They were the 8
- 9 responsibility of the pipe coverers and the laggers, I
- guess they call them. A specific trade. 10
- O. Do you associate the blanket covering on 11 the Vicker pumps to old pumps on the FDR or newly 12
- 13 installed pumps? 14 Á. Old.
- O. Did the old pumps and the newly installed 15 pumps have the same type of blanket over them? 16
 - Similar. Α.
- 18 Q. Was there a certain type of Vicker pump that was covered as opposed to another type of Vicker 19 20 pump that was covered with another asbestos blanket?
- I have no idea. 21
- 22 Q. You also identified Vicker pumps as being 23 located on the U.S.S. Lexington in the boiler rooms
- 24 and equipment room. Do you have a specific
 - recollection of seeing a Vicker pump on the U.S.S.

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- where is it located? 1
- 2 Where? A.
 - Q. On the pipes or the pump itself?
- 4 A. On both.
- 5 Q. On both?
- Yes. 6 A.

3

- 7 Q. What was the purpose of the covering that
- 8 was located on the Vicker pump?
- 9 Asbestos covering?
- 10 Q. Yes.
- For protection. 11 A.
- 12 Q. Protection from what?
- 13 Outside environment, sparks. There's Α.
- 14 construction activity going on all around. Sparks go
- flying, hot molten metal. People were bumping into 15
- these things. Just generally protection. 16
- Q. So, you said people were bumping into 17
- 18 these things. Was it like a cushion?
- 19 A.
- 20 Q. Can you describe the covering, the
- 21 asbestos covering that was on the pump, the Vickers
- 22 pump?
- 23 Α. Blanket form, I guess, brownish in color.
- 24 Q. Do you recall the texture of the blanket?
- 25 Not really, no. Α.

- Lexinaton? 1
 - 2 There were pumps all over. Specifically, it
 - 3 would be difficult for me to say I saw one of their
 - pumps right there, but there were pumps on board.
 - 5 Q. I'm just asking as you sit here today, do 6 you have a specific recollection of seeing a Vicker
 - .7 pump on the U.S.S. Lexington?
 - 8 A. "No.
 - 9 Q. Do you recall whether or not Vicker pumps
 - 10 were in any other compartment on the U.S.S. Lexington besides the boiler room and the equipment room? 11
 - I don't have a recollection. 12
 - 13 Q. When you worked on the U.S.S. Lexington, 14 what was your title?
 - 15 Can you give me a time frame?
 - Q. Whenever you worked on the U.S.S. 16 17 Lexington.
 - MR. BLOCK: Why don't you ask the full 18 question again so it's clear. Maybe a little 19 20 louder.
 - Q. Do you recall what year or years you 21 worked on the U.S.S. Lexington? 22
 - MR. BLOCK: Objection to the extent that 23 it's been asked and answered, but you can go 24 25 ahead.

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Γ,	Page 364		
1	pumps had hoses connected to them?	1	Q. Ar
12	A. Hoses?	2	A. Yes.
3	Q. Hoses.	3	Q. Th
4	A. Yes.	4	A. Yes.
5	Q. Were there any markings on those hoses?	5	Q. Be
6	A. Not that I recall.	6	pulling pun
7	Q. Do you associate a particular color to	7	were expos
8	these hoses?	8	U.S.S. Lexit
9	 Most of the hoses were black. 	9	A. Just g
10	 Q. With regard to the Vicker pumps on the 	10	insulation t
11	U.S.S. Lexington, how do you believe you were exposed	11	off.
12	to asbestos from these pumps?	12	Q. Is
13	 A. In a similar manner described before. 	13	insulation t
14	Involved with the inspection, location and	14	materials th
15	relocation, if necessary, foundation.	15	A. Pretty
16	Q. Are you finished	16	Q. De
17	MR. BLOCK: He's not finished if you	17	A. No.
18	interrupt him in the middle of a word.	18	Q. Do
19	Read back the answer up to the point	19	the insulation
20	where Mr. Gitto was interrupted, please.	20	A. Gener
21	(Whereupon, the referred to question and	21	around the
22	answer were read back by the court reporter.)	22	would be la
23	A. That's about the answer.	23	manner to
24	Q. In regard to all these different	24	Q. Yo
1.25	activities, inspection, location, relocation and	25	pipes leadir
	Page 365		
1	foundation, what was the source of your exposure to	1	opposed to
2	asbestos?	2	A. Right
3	A. What was my?	3	Q. G
4	Q. What was the source of your exposure to	4	covered?
5	asbestos?	5	A. Again
6	A. In order to relocate it, foundation or a pump,	6	sort of atta
7	they had to remove the pipe covering. It was often	7	place.
8	not it was often burnt off, creating residue,	8	Q. Ai

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- and that would burn the asbestos?
- That was in the covering?
- Besides the covering that was on the mp, do you recall any other ways that you sed to asbestos from Vicker pumps on the ington?
- general handling of the covering and the that was on there. They took it on and
 - s the covering you referred to and the same thing, or are they different that were on the pump or the pipes?
- y much the same thing.
 - to you know what the difference is?
- Do you have a difference in mind between ion and the covering that was on the pump?
- erally, I think, again, covering wraps
- e pipe itself (indicating). On the pump, it aid on top of the pump or attached in some
 - the pump.
 - ou're making a distinction regarding the ng to the pump, that they were covered as

- not it was often burnt off, creating residue, smoke, fibers in the air, in the compartment.
- Q. And this covering was on pipe and the 11 pump?
- 12 Α. Yes.

9

10

- 13 Q. Can you describe this covering that was 14 on the pump?
- 15 It was pipe covering. It was two halves usually strapped together with a metal band. 16
- Q. Do you associate a color to that 17 18 covering?
- 19 A. Generally a brown.
- 20 Q. And you believe this covering consisted 21 of asbestos?
- 22 Α. Yes.
- 33 Q. If it consisted of asbestos, how did they 24 burn it off?
- 25
 - An acetylene torch.

o how the pump itself was covered, correct?

- Can you describe how the pump itself was
- n, with this blanket. It might have some aching screws, something to hold it in
- Q. And this is the type of covering that was 9 on a Vickers pump on the U.S.S. Lexington, correct? 10
- Q. Was this covering on both the old pumps 11 and the newly installed pumps? 12
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Was there any difference between the 15 covering that was used on the older pumps that were removed and the new pumps that were installed? 16
- 17 I don't recall. I don't recall.
- Q. I'm just going to switch gears a second 18 19 and ask you about Vicker valves. You previously
- 20 testified that you assorted Vicker valves to the
- U.S.S. Hornet, the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt and 21
- the U.S.S. Lexington. Do you recall that testimony? 22
- 23 Those were ships that I worked on, yes.
- 24 Q. Do you associate the Vicker valves to any other ships or locations?

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Control the flow of fluid. 1 A.

- O. Is there a difference in your mind 2 between the Vickers valves and the Vickers pumps? 3 Valves control the flow of fluid. The pumps
- 4 5 raise or lower the pressure.
 - Do you recall what type of fluid flowed through these Vickers valves on the U.S.S. Hornet?
- 8 There is a variety of anything from fuel oil 9 to drinking water.
- Q. Do you believe you were exposed to 10 asbestos from the Vicker valves on the U.S.S. Hornet? 11
- 12 A. Yes.

6

7

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8

- 13 Q. How do you believe that occurred?
- 14 By my, again, similar as to what I testified
- to before, that I was involved with the inspection, 15 relocation, if necessary, of foundations for these 16
- valves, which encompassed and removing and 17
- reinstalling valve covering, pipe coverings. 18
- 19 O. What were the valves covered with?
- 20 I'm sorry?
 - Q. What were the Vicker valves covered with?
- What were the Vicker valves covered with? 22 Α.
- 23
- Protective covering, you're talking about? 24
- 25 We're talking about protective covering.

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covering that was on the pipes, was there any other

way you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a

Vickers valve on the U.S.S. Hornet? 3

4 Α.

5

11

12

If I go to the U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S.

Lexington and ask you about the Vicker valves on each 6

of those ships, would your description of these 7

valves be different than your description of the 8

- Vicker valves on the U.S.S. Hornet? 9
- 10 It would be very similar.
 - Q. How would they be different? MR. BLOCK: If at all.
- Maybe the way the piping configurations hooked 13 up, the runs of the pipe or something might be 14 15 different.
- 16 Q. On the U.S.S. Hornet, do you recall a specific piping configuration that you associate to 17 the Vicker valves? 18
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Do you recall a specific piping configuration that you associate to the Vicker valves 21 22 on the FDR?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. And the same question for the U.S.S.
- 25 Lexington?

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- Q. Let me ask that again. Were the Vicker 1 2 valves covered with anything?
- 3 For protection, they were covered with 4 asbestos blankets.
- 5 Q. Is it your testimony that you were exposed to asbestos when these asbestos blankets that 6 7 were over the Vicker valves were removed or replaced?
 - Them and the pipe covering.
- 9 Q. The pipe covering that you're referring 10 to, was that only on the pipes or also on the valves?
- Certainly was on the pipes. I don't recall 11 specifically on the valves themselves, but probably 12 13 were.
- 14 Q. You earlier testified, I believe, in 15 regard to the Vicker pumps, that one of the ways to get the covering off the pumps was a burning process. 16 Was that burning process used to remove the asbestos 17
- blankets if these asbestos blankets were on a pump or 18 19 a valve?
- 20 A. I don't specifically remember seeing them used to burn off blankets, but it wouldn't have surprised 21
- me if they had. They just went in there, and it was 22
- 23 kind of a destructive process, get rid of the old
- 24 ones and start building from the ground up. 25 Q. Besides the asbestos blanket and the pipe

- 1 Α. No.
 - 2 Q. Do you recall whether the sizes that you 3 described for the Vicker valves on the U.S.S. Hornet were the same range of sizes that you would see on 5 the FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington?
 - 6 Yes, pretty much so. Α.
 - 7 Q. Is your testimony the same or similar as to how you were exposed to asbestos from the Vicker 8 valves on the FDR and the Lexington in comparison to 9 10 your testimony with the U.S.S. Hornet?
 - 11 Similar-type work was done, yes, similar A. 12 exposure.
 - Q. By that, you would be exposed to asbestos 13 14 from the asbestos blankets on the Vicker valves and the pipe covering on the pipes assorted to the Vicker 16 valves?
 - 17 A. Yes.
 - Q. Are all the Vicker valves covered with an 18 19 asbestos blanket?
 - 20 A. Some were, some weren't.
 - 21 Q. Do you know what the reason would be that some Vicker valves would not be covered with an 22
 - 23 asbestos blanket?
 - They may have been removed for some reason 24
 - that I have no idea what it would be.

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Page 276		Page 378
Page 376	1	you have listed on your Chart A. What's the basis
Q. What's the basis for you saying that some	2	for associating cylinders to the name Vickers?
were and some weren't will regard to the vicker		A. Again, the same as the previous answer. I
		have no basis at this point.
A. Repeat that.		Q. Okay.
Q. What's your basis for saying that some		MR. STEINBAUER: That's all the questions
		I have now. Thank you.
		THE WITNESS: Thank you.
		THE WITHESON THAT IS TO
Q. Do you recall what ships you saw vicker		
		CROSS-EXAMINATION BY
		MR. CHAO:
Q. Is it also true for the Vicker pumps,		Q. Good morning, Mr. Gitto.
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		A. Good morning. Q. My name is Brendan Chao. I'm of counsel
		for Northrup Grumman.
Q. Do you recall what snips you saw that a		MR. CHAO: Just for the record, we want
		to assert an objection to the production of
		three manuals at 9:45 this morning, and I'll
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		just identify the manuals by their cover. The
		first one is a green, three-ring binder called
		-"Grumman Safety Bulletins Manual."
		The second one is a black binder,
A. It's either my ears or you're speaking low.	1	multiple-ring binder called "Quality Control
Q. Sorry. Besides the asbestos blanket		Laboratory," entitled "Non-destructive Test
covering the Vickers valves on the U.S.S. Hornet,	25	Laboratory, endued from desiration for
	25	Page 379
Page 377		Page 379
Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any	1	Page 379 Manual."
Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to	1 2	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring
Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a Vicker valve?	1 2 3	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring binder entitled, "Quality and Safety
U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a Vicker valve? A. No.	1 2 3 4	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring binder entitled, "Quality and Safety Operations, Military Space Quality
Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a Vicker valve? A. No. Q. Do you associate any other type of	1 2 3 4 5	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring binder entitled, "Quality and Safety Operations, Military Space Quality Procedures." Let's have these marked.
Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a Vicker valve? A. No. Q. Do you associate any other type of equipment with the name Vickers?	1 2 3 4 5 6	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring binder entitled, "Quality and Safety Operations, Military Space Quality Procedures." Let's have these marked. (Whereupon, the referred-to binders were
Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a Vicker valve? A. No. Q. Do you associate any other type of equipment with the name Vickers? A. No.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring binder entitled, "Quality and Safety Operations, Military Space Quality Procedures." Let's have these marked. (Whereupon, the referred-to binders were
Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a Vicker valve? A. No. Q. Do you associate any other type of equipment with the name Vickers? A. No. Q. Listed under your Chart A, under	1 2 3 4 5 6	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring binder entitled, "Quality and Safety Operations, Military Space Quality Procedures." Let's have these marked. (Whereupon, the referred-to binders were marked Defendant's Exhibits 2, 3 and 4 for Identification by the court reporter.)
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Page 377 U.S.S. FDR and the U.S.S. Lexington, are there any other ways that you believe you were exposed to asbestos from a Vicker valve? A. No. Q. Do you associate any other type of equipment with the name Vickers? A. No. Q. Listed under your Chart A, under "Equipment," you have "Vickers" listed, and you have "motors, valves and cylinders." Do you associate	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Page 379 Manual." The third manual is a blue, three-ring binder entitled, "Quality and Safety Operations, Military Space Quality Procedures." Let's have these marked. (Whereupon, the referred-to binders were marked Defendant's Exhibits 2, 3 and 4 for Identification by the court reporter.) MR. CHAO: We want to preserve our right to further depose the witness based on a more
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	Q. Do you recall what ships you saw that a Vickers pump was not covered with an asbestos blanket? A. No. Q. Besides the asbestos blanket over the Vickers valve and the pipe covering connected to the valve —	A. Repeat that. Q. What's your basis for saying that some Vicker valves were covered with asbestos blanket and some were not? A. Visual observation. Q. Do you recall what ships you saw Vicker valves not covered with an asbestos blanket? A. No. Q. Is it also true for the Vicker pumps, that some were covered with an asbestos blanket and some were not? A. Yes. Q. Do you recall what ships you saw that a Vickers pump was not covered with an asbestos blanket? A. No. Q. Besides the asbestos blanket over the Vickers valve and the pipe covering connected to the valve— A. It's either my ears or you're speaking low.